

The Capital District Women's Bar Association Legal Project, that its application for continued funding had been denied. The Department of Justice has supported the CDWBA Legal Project's efforts on behalf of battered women for nearly a decade. With this financial assistance, the group has provided critical services for more than 4,000 poor, battered women and their children since 1996. The program has been so successful that the United States Office of Justice Programs identified it in 2003 as a "best practices program" as a model for communities striving to better serve and protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Yet this program and, Director Lisa Frisch told me, other programs like it, are losing their funding and ability to prevent abuse and assist victims.

We critically need to provide this funding—to stop domestic violence, and aid its victims.

Domestic abuse is an ongoing crisis for many American families. It is the common cold of violence for Americans today. But working together, as Federal, State, and local officials, as governmental and nongovernmental organizations, as individuals, we can reduce the severity and the prevalence of domestic violence. We can protect the most vulnerable members of our society: women, the elderly, children. I applaud Senators BIDEN, HATCH, and SPECTER who introduced the Violence Against Women Act of 2005 in June, and the nearly 60 Senators who cosponsored the legislation. Members on both sides of the aisle. Their hard work helps to strengthen American families.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On December 7, 2003, in Largo, FL, Reshae McCauley, a 30-year-old transgender person, visited Z109, a local club. The following evening Reshae's body was discovered near her home where she had died of severe upper body trauma. According to police, the apparent motivation for the attack was her sexual orientation.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, even as our Nation faces new public health challenges, it is crucial that we not lose sight of a devastating disease that has remained a challenge for decades: the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Over the past two decades, the Nation has witnessed tremendous strides in the diagnosis and treatment of this disease, and overall, affected individuals are living longer and in better health. Yet approximately 40,000 Americans are still infected every year, half of whom are under the age of 25, and over 1 million Americans are living with this disease. My own State of Illinois ranks sixth in the Nation for HIV/AIDS, and our health officials and experts continue to work diligently to reduce the number of newly infected, as well as provide high quality care to those who are infected.

As with so many diseases, HIV/AIDS has had a disproportionate impact on the Latino community. While representing only 14 percent of the U.S. population, Latinos comprise 20 percent of the population affected by HIV/AIDS. However, unlike every other racial and ethnic group, the number of estimated deaths among Latinos with AIDS is actually increasing—a 17 percent growth between 1999 and 2003.

As the largest and fastest growing ethnic minority group in the U.S., it is imperative that HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in the Latino community remain a top priority for our Nation.

I am proud to join Representative HILDA SOLIS, Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' Task Force on Health, and other members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and Congressional Black Caucus, in recognizing October 15 as National Latino AIDS Awareness Day. On this day, we renew our commitment to ending the spread of HIV and ensuring quality of life to those with HIV regardless of their country of origin or immigration status. We do this whether we are Latino, African American, Asian, Caucasian or Native American. Although we all belong to separate communities, it is important that we stand as one community in the fight against this disease that is rapidly targeting populations of color.

The numbers are growing and so should our national attention towards the issue. The reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act is an example of how our Nation can help. It is also critical to increase funding for the Minority AIDS Initiative, MAI, which addresses the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on people of color by allocating specific funds for programs under the Ryan White CARE Act. Programs like Ryan White provide our most vulnerable populations, such as HIV/AIDS-stricken Latinos, with a chance for quality health care and a brighter future.

On October 15 and every other day of the year, I encourage all of us to join

in the fight against HIV and AIDS. We cannot become complacent. The need is great, and the time to act is overdue.

#### NOMINATION OF WAN J. KIM

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I support the nomination of Wan J. Kim, of my home State of New Jersey, to be the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the Department of Justice.

Wan Kim's life is a testament to the American dream. Mr. Kim's father came to New York from South Korea in 1971, with only a few hundred dollars in his pocket and the dream of building a better life for his family. He spoke no English and he took a job washing dishes. His wife joined him several months later, and worked in a garment factory. In 1973, Wan Kim and his sister left South Korea, where they had been staying with their grandmother, to reunite with their parents on U.S. soil. Wan Kim was 5 years old at the time.

The family soon moved to New Jersey, where Mr. Kim's parents purchased a luncheonette in Jersey City, and later a home in Union Township. Mr. Kim's parents worked 7 days a week to provide an education and a life of opportunity for their children. Mr. Kim excelled in school, graduating as valedictorian of his high school class and serving this country in the Army Reserves. He received his bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins University and his law degree from the University of Chicago Law School.

Following law school, Mr. Kim clerked for Federal Judge James L. Buckley on the DC Circuit Court. He then worked as a trial attorney in the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, where he participated in the prosecution of the Oklahoma City bombing case. Mr. Kim later served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, as counsel on the Senate Judiciary committee, and as a lawyer in private practice. Since August 2003, Mr. Kim has served as a deputy assistant attorney general of the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice, where he is charged with oversight of the criminal, educational opportunities, and housing and civil enforcement sections.

If confirmed as assistant attorney general, Mr. Kim will be the Nation's top civil rights law enforcement officer. In that capacity, he will be responsible for overseeing more than 300 attorneys nationwide and with ensuring the vigorous enforcement of this Nation's civil rights laws—including those relating to voting rights, employment discrimination, human trafficking, and police misconduct. Mr. Kim will enjoy the distinction of being the first Korean-American and the first naturalized citizen to assume that post.

The position to which Mr. Kim is nominated is one of vital importance to our Nation. There are those who